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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ILLINOIS DISTRICT OFFICE

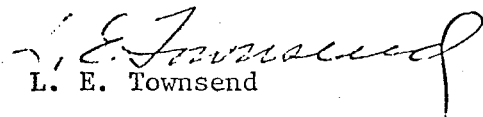
SUBJECT: Reconnaissance Inspection of PCB Use at Van Tran
Electric Corporation, Vandalia, Illinois

DATE: December 1, 1975

FROM: Director, Illinois District Office

TO: C. M. Timm, Director
Surveillance and Analysis Division

Transmitted are three copies of our inspection report on the PCB use, handling, storage and disposal at Van Tran Electric Corporation at Vandalia, Illinois on November 12, 1975.


L. E. Townsend

Attachment (3 copies)
as stated

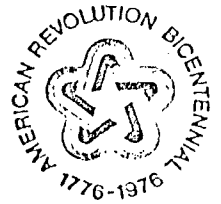
RECEIVED
Field Operations Section

JAN 05 1976

Environmental Protection Agency
State of Illinois



UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V
ILLINOIS DISTRICT OFFICE
1819 W. PERSHING RD.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609



December 1, 1975

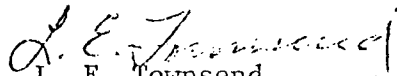
Mr. Robert L. Schleuger
Supervisor, Field Operations, Region IV, DWPC
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
117 West Main Street
Collinsville, Illinois 62234

Dear Mr. Schleuger:

Enclosed are two copies of our inspection report on the PCB use, handling, storage and disposal at Van Tran Electric Corporation at Vandalia, Illinois on November 12, 1975.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me or Mr. S. Bernotas of my staff.

Sincerely,


L. E. Townsend
Director

Enclosure (2 copies)
Van Tran Electric Corp. Report

REPORT ON
ENFORCEMENT REQUESTED INSPECTION OF PCB USE
VAN TRAN ELECTRIC CORPORATION
1550 VAN TRAN AVENUE
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS 62471

NOVEMBER 12, 1975

PERFORMED BY
U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ILLINOIS DISTRICT OFFICE
1819 WEST PERSHING ROAD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60609

REPORT ON INSPECTION OF PCB USE
USEPA - ILLINOIS DISTRICT OFFICE

I. Company Identification

Van Tran Electric Corporation
1550 Van Tran Avenue
Vandalia, Illinois 62471

Telephone: 618-283-3220

Responsible Officials

Mr. Howard Trindall, Plant Manager
Mr. Jerry Little, Office Manager
Mr. Bob Smith, Superintendent

II. Date of Inspection

November 12, 1975

III. Participants

Company

Mr. Jerry Little, Office Manager
Mr. Bob Smith, Superintendent

USEPA - Illinois District Office

Sylvester Bernotas, Sanitary Engineer (Author)

IV. Objective

To review methods of handling PCB's, including storage and disposal.

V. Summary of Findings

The method of handling PCB's containing materials appears to be inadequate for prevention of loss to the environment.

Monsanto's Askarel is received in 55 gallon drums and stored in a sheet metal building (approximately 49 drums were in the building). When Askarel is required, a drum is transported by fork lift truck to another building where the Askarel is poured from the drum into a transformer. There is a yard drain to a ditch in the truck route.

Empty drums are stored in the yard with other empty drums. Askarel drums are used for storing paint thinners and waste paint.

Other drums are used for material storage after the tops are cut off and the inside is wiped clean with Trichloroethane Methy Chloroform 55% and Methylene Chloride 45% solvent. The Askarel and solvent mixture is trucked to Van Tran's Louisville, Georgia plant for processing. Rags used to clean the drums are not salvaged. About 2 ounces of Askarel was on the top of one of the used drums.

VI. Description of Company

Van Tran employs 60 to 70 persons in the manufacture of pole and pad mounted transformers up to 5000 KVA. Askarel is only used on customer request. Last year approximately 2500 gallons of Askarel was used in 12 transformers.

VII. Discussion

The plant should discontinue using uncleaned Askarel drums for paint thinner and paint waste storage. Cleaning rags should also be stored and returned to the processing plant with dirty Askarel.

If Van Tran follows the procedures for Askarel storage and disposal as written in the "AN C 107-1-1974, American National Standard Guidelines for handling and disposal of capacitor and transformer grade askarels containing polychlorinated biphenyls" no PCB would be lost to the environment at the plant.

Stored on the premises are 2000 gallons of Askeral and 5800 gallons of mineral oil inside a building. There are two empty mineral oil tanks, 8000 gallons and 6000 gallons capacity, above ground outdoors.

The plant was on strike during the inspection. This summer both outside tanks were opened and 14,000 gallons of mineral oil were spilled on the ground and ran into a ditch near the plant property.

Van Tran does not have a certified SPCC plan. A copy of the Federal Register pertaining to the matter was mailed to the office manager.